

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 03364 071613Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 070211

R 071520Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9910
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3364

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IT, GW, US, IS
SUBJECT: PHM SALES TO ISRAEL

REF: A. STATE 021540
B. BONN 03072

1. EMBASSY FONOFF CONTACTS HAVE NOW INFORMED US CATEGORICALLY THAT ISSUE OF POSSIBLE SALE OF PHMS TO ISRAEL WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BROUGHT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ATTENTION. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE ANDREOTTI MAY HAVE MADE "PERSONAL PROMISE" TO ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER. INDEED, FON-OFF SOURCE SUGGESTED HIS MINISTRY HAD HEARD RUMORS ABOUT A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO. IN ANY EVENT, WHATEVER THE ISRAELI MOD DISCUSSED WITH ANDREOTTI ON THIS SUBJECT WAS NEVER PUT INTO FORMAL CHANNELS FOR DECISION. SOURCE DID INDICATE HIS INQUIRIES HAD TURNED UP REFERENCES TO GERMAN-ITALIAN CONSULTATIONS ON ISRAELI INTEREST "A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO" AS REPORTED REF B.

2. SHOULD DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR "CONFIRMATION" (PARA 2, REF A) SUBSUME IN THIS CASE THAT EMBASSY IS NOW TO SEEK CONCURRENCE OF GOI AS CONSORTIUM MEMBER TO POSSIBLE SALE PHMS TO ISRAEL, EMBASSY WILL TAKE UP MATTER AT HIGHER LEVEL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHERE SUCH A QUESTION, LADEN WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS, WILL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE HAVE

TO BE ANSWERED. VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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